

## Knightly news briefs

### 19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron quarterly award winners

Company Grade Officer of the Quarter - **1st Lt. Mona Medley**

Senior Non-commissioned Officer of the Quarter - **Senior Master Sgt. William Russell**

Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter - **Tech. Sgt. Greg Moore**

Airman of the Quarter - **Senior Airman Jason Leffall**

### 19th Air Refueling Group Airlift Tanker Association Leadership award winners

Officer Category - **2nd Lt. Dennis Knight**

Enlisted Category - **Airman 1st Class Steve Akana**

### Carl Vinson Chapter of the Air Force Association annual award winners

Human Resources Management Person of the Year - **Tech. Sgt. Corey Little**, 99th Air Refueling Squadron

Aviator of the Year - **Capt. Jason Work**, 19th Operations Support Squadron

Airlifter of the Year - **Capt. Derek Salmi**, 19th Operations Support Squadron

### 19th Air Refueling Group Dutch Huyser Award recipients

**Airman 1st Class Paula Lane**, 99th Air Refueling Squadron

### Airmen First Class Promoted to Senior Airman Below the Zone

**Airman 1st Class Paula Lane**, 99th Air Refueling Squadron

**Airman 1st Class Jessica Jackson**, 19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

### Black Knights intramural basketball schedule

- Team #1**  
May 12, 9 p.m., 78th SFS #1  
May 21, 8 p.m., 653rd CLSS
- Team #2**  
May 5, 8 p.m., 78th SFS #2  
May 14, 6 p.m., 78th LRS  
May 21, 7 p.m., 5th MOBB #2

News brief submission guidelines

Anyone interested in submitting news briefs or story ideas can contact Geoff Janes or Holly Logan by e-mail at geoff.janes@robins.af.mil. or holly.logan@robins.af.mil. Since space is limited, briefs will be printed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

# The busiest shop in town

## 19th ARG schedulers keep mission on time

By **Holly J. Logan**  
holly.logan@robins.af.mil

*Editor's Note: Lt. Col. Barbara Olson, chief of scheduling, 19th Operations Support Squadron, contributed to this article.*

The Black Knights reached a phenomenal 231 percent of its allocated flying time by October 2002, making the 19th Air Refueling Group the busiest air-refueling unit in Air Mobility Command. Originally allocated 3,108 hours, the 19th ARG reached an unprecedented 7,228.5 flying hours by October 2002, attaining an unsurpassable flying record of 7,257 flying hours by fiscal year end, according to 19th ARG reports. From supporting personnel to meeting the needs of flying crews, the 19th ARG has been involved in almost every major operational mission the U.S Air Force has to offer, said Col. Brian Kelly, 19th ARG deputy commander. "They've supported everything from homeland defense to overseas combat and combat support missions," he said. "It is the commitment of the men and women of the 19th ARG that make it happen every day." Lt. Col. Michael Smith, commander of the 19th Operations Support Squadron, said the Black Knights are continuing to do more with less, by increasing its commitment to training



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp  
1st Lt. Lydia Beers, crew scheduler, and Tim Martin, short range scheduler, discuss operations for the 19th Air Refueling Group.

by flying multiple air refuelings on a single mission.

"Our typical training missions have increased from about four hours to almost seven hours in duration to accommodate the training requirements of almost every aircraft in the Air Force inventory," he said. "This is tremendously important ....to provide mission-ready crews for the long haul." Throughout the past year, the 19th ARG has orchestrated more than 20 deployments around the world, including Southwest Asia, Iceland, Ecuador, Kyrgyzstan, Greece, Puerto Rico, and most recently the Middle East. All was accomplished while simultaneously completing over 22,000 individual training events to maintain crew proficiency at the highest levels, according to the Group. The Group continues to lead the pack, flying over 90 percent of its allocated flying time, and schedulers are keeping the Black Knights flying high. According to Tim Martin, 19th ARG air operations specialist, also known as schedulers, said he and others in his office are charged with building flight schedules at least a week in advance; pressing, which involves finalizing flight schedules; and execution of flight schedules, which involves making certain people are doing the jobs set forth. Martin said normally he builds standard flight schedules for the Group, but with the other schedulers deployed, his workload has greatly increased.

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# Knightly News from the front

By **Maj. Greg Scheer**  
19th ARG Executive Officer

In early March, nearly half of the 19th ARG deployed in a force commanded by Lt. Col. Barry Dowell to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, to support an Operation Enduring Freedom air bridge. The daily missions consisted of refueling C-17 transport aircraft and flying non-stop to locations near and in Afghanistan. After only two weeks the detachment was redeployed to a different location to support special operations forces as a part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In less than two days the group relocated their aircraft, cargo, equipment and personnel to a classified location and immediately began supporting the war effort. The unit's new designation became the 99th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron. To date, the 99th EARS is responsible for flying nearly 150 combat and combat support Iraqi Freedom sorties, refueling over 200 coalition aircraft with more than 4 million pounds of fuel. "Our folks have overcome tremendous obstacles to meet all mission requirements. They're fired up about contributing to the fight," said Lt. Col. Dowell. Airman 1st Class Robert said: "...I was fresh out of training really not expecting to be deployed so soon, and [somewhere for] something of this importance. Yet, every time I launched out a plane [KC-135], I knew my part had somewhat a bigger meaning." Outstanding attitudes among the troops are the key. "One team, one fight" is the standard motto. This war is all encompassing and the

Black Knights have, once again, risen to the occasion and fought like true heroes. "Strong words like pride and honor barely grasp what my feelings are of this operation," said Airman 1st Class Robert. The 99th EARS trains for this type of mission everyday back home. The Black Knights are war-proven and are on the cutting edge of every sword. This includes winning awards. Similar to back home recognition happens even deployed. The following are March's monthly award winners: Airman of the Month – **Airman 1st Class Christi Heiser** NCO of the Month – **Tech. Sgt. Tim Miller** Senior NCO of the Month – **Master Sgt. Jeff Whited** Company Grade Officer of the Month – **Capt. Pete Fravel** Aircrew of the Month – **Capt. Derek Salmi (Aircraft Commander), 1st Lt. Andrew Schmitt (Pilot), Capt. Larry Baker (Navigator), Airman 1st Class Terry Brown (Boom Operator)** Work Center of the Month – **Global Reach Communications Element: Tech. Sgt. Tim Miller (NCOIC), Staff Sgt. Ron Beasley, Staff Sgt. George Thomas, Senior Airman Tim Burch, Airman 1st Class Marquis Gillmore** "We've received a number of care packages from back home. Thank you for all the support you've given to us and also our families back home while we've been deployed. One team, one fight," added Lt. Col. Dowell. Currently the deployed group of Black Knights is awaiting further tasking and eventually redeployment orders.



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp  
Lt. Col. Ed Sienkiewicz is one of 208 people Air Force-wide selected for the program that contracts him to continue service to the Armed Forces branch for an additional three years.

# Back in the game

## Sienkiewicz continues service to Air Force through RARP

By **Holly J. Logan**  
holly.logan@robins.af.mil

Lt. Col. Ed Sienkiewicz will continue his service to the U.S Air Force and the Black Knights thanks to the Retired Aviator Recall Program. RARP, offered through the U.S Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, is a program that allows lieutenant colonels and below to remain in service for up to three years beyond their retirement date. Sienkiewicz was one of 208 people Air Force-wide selected for the program that contracts him to continue service to the Armed Forces branch for an additional three years. The chief of the 19th Air Refueling Group Inspections Office said he received his letter of acceptance into the program just a few weeks before his retirement date.

"This gives me the opportunity to continue serving my country and my fellow Black Knights," he said. "It feels good to be a part of the program." The 1975 U.S Air Force Academy graduate said his recent enrollment in the program not only means financial security for him, but ensures his continued commitment to the 19th ARG mission. "This way, I can help the group with future inspections," he said. "I'm looking forward to continuing service with our award-winning group." Lt. Col. Tim Rose, director of staff for the Black Knights, said the 19th ARG staff will definitely benefit by retaining the experience Sienkiewicz brings to the unit. "He has seen this unit evolve from a wing to the present-day structure that makes up the 19th Air Refueling Group – not to mention the numerous mission changes," he said. "He has the corporate knowledge that has made the Black Knights a synonym for success." Col. Brian Kelly, 19th ARG deputy commander called this, "a huge win for the group."



COMMANDER’S CORNER

Nailing down concepts that stand the test of time

By Col. Brian Kelly  
19th Air Refueling Group  
deputy commander

**Editor’s note:** *In this issue of Knightly News we will start a column that will be shared among the group's commanders and deputies over the coming months. With Col. Barbara Faulkenberry still deployed, Col. Brian Kelly, 19th ARG deputy commander, is the first to write.*

Before turning to the main subject, a few notes on the group and community are worth mentioning.

The 19th Air Refueling Group is clearly a winning organization surrounded by a great community – on and off base.

The community has truly embraced our deployed members and their families. Many businesses have found ways to ease the challenges faced by families without their deployed members.

Civic organizations, base leaders and spouse organizations have also done a tremendous job of taking care of our families, letting the people overseas know of our support and even sending deployed members necessities and gifts.

It is hard to express how proud these efforts make me as a new member of this supportive community.

In fact only one thing makes me prouder: the incredible job done by the deployed members to rid the



Col. Brian Kelly

world of a threat and provide for our security.

All of us had a part in this, but those who went forward deserve special praise for the success, so far, in an exceptionally difficult task.

This is only one step in the war on terrorism, but a big one.

**This month's topic**

Having been in the Air Force for well over 20 years, one effort to codify what makes the Air Force special truly stands out in my mind.

That effort is our former Chief, Gen. Fogleman's project to define our core values.

In listing and defining our core values of integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do, the Air Force nailed down concepts that have survived the test of time and given us each a solid foundation for carrying out our important missions.

Note that they each tie in well with the concepts of honor, country and duty – words the Army has used for many years. The Army just put them in a different order. These core values are tried and proven.

Integrity is the foundation of any good unit. Units based on integrity can sustain superior performance.

Good units should ferret out practices that have worked their way into a gray area, where truth is in any way clouded. They should be known for following the rules and for admitting mistakes.

They should have a cli-

mate of openness. Integrity will inspire trust, and good units trust each other and serve each other.

Service before self is sometimes a controversial subject. Viewed the wrong way, the Air Force can seem to be telling people to give more and to like it.

This might not come across well to troops who have put their families or personal lives on hold numerous times for hard work or to be deployed around the globe.

But, this core value is not a request – it is a fact.

Air Force people have made service a core value. You have signed on the dotted line. You have chosen to serve your country.

The Air Force has simply codified this reality.

People need not be told they are expected to sacrifice. When the time comes, they will.

Because of this core value of service, leaders can put people first, and the mission falls right in line.

Excellence in accomplishing this mission comes from vision and hard work.

As we attack our mission, we must look out into the future, anticipate changes, and innovate from within our units.

Entire units can build a vision of where they need to go. In fact, the unit's vision must be shared.

A shared vision ensures efforts are funneled in the right direction – toward worthwhile goals.

Hard work follows. But here is where I am truly preaching to the choir.

The 19th ARG knows all about hard work, and perhaps now, a little more about our core values: “Integrity first, Service Before Self, Excellence in all we do.”



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp



Try this on for size

Students of the ATA Black Belt Academy in Warner Robins, also known as the Black Knights Demonstration Team, get an inside look at how the 19th ARG's Black Knights do their jobs.

Above, Lt. Col. Mike Smith helps Philip Miner try on a parachute. Left, Chelsie Hunt, foreground, and Claire Randles try out the boom operator's position in one of the 19th ARG's KC-135 Stratotankers.

SCHEDULERS

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“Usually, four people take care of aircraft scheduling,” he said. “With everyone else overseas right now, I'm having to maintain areas that normally belong to others in the office to help maintain the support our people need.”

With a majority of the Group deployed, Martin said the number of routine missions executed by the crewmembers at Robins has decreased, to avoid over-working Black Knights still on the home front.

Kelly said whether it’s on the home front or overseas, it’s the men and women of the 19th ARG that collectively make the mission a success.

Run for life:  
Relay For Life May 16,17

Black Knights are dedicating their time and energy to the Houston County-Warner Robins Relay For Life to raise funds in support of the fight against cancer.

From 6 p.m., May 16 through noon May 17, the Black Knights will participate in the event. For more information on becoming a 19th ARG team member, or making a donation, contact Black Knight and cancer survivor, Staff Sgt. Aaron Cooper at 327-3036 or via e-mail at aaron.cooper@robins.af.mil

Moving up:  
19th Air Refueling Group promotion list

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|---|---|
| Promoted from Airman Basic to Airman<br><b>Airman Adrienne Middleton</b>  | Promoted from Senior Airman to Staff Sergeant April 1   |
| Promoted from Airman to Airman-1st Class  | <b>Staff Sgt. Melissa Magyari</b><br><b>Staff Sgt Adam King</b><br><b>Staff Sgt. David Senclair</b> |
| <b>Airman 1st Class Christopher Haines</b> , April 4<br><b>Airman 1st Class David Hayman</b> , April 4<br><b>Airman 1st Class Ryan Tanguilan</b> , April 18 | Promoted from Staff Sergeant to Technical Sergeant, April 1   |
|   | <b>Tech. Sgt. Ashley Barron</b>   |

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